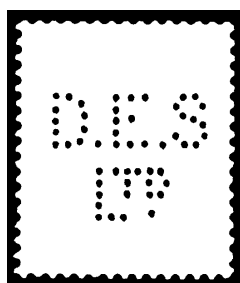


D. F. TAYLER & CO. LTD.

Roy Gault

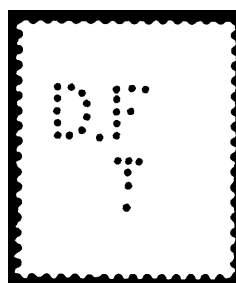
Way back in August 2006 **Colin Fountain** reported an unusual pattern “D.F/.” on a 1½d issue ‘Q’ dated 9th December 1937, followed by **Stephen Steere** in January 2007 with the same value and issue. In both cases I declined to allocate a New Catalogue number as it was clearly “D.F.S/L^{td}.” (D1630.01) but with many pins ‘missing’. The full strike of the die was used from 1912 (known used 19th January) until at least 1929 (known on KGV PUC Issue), so we can say c1930.

1912-1930



D1630.01

1937-1939



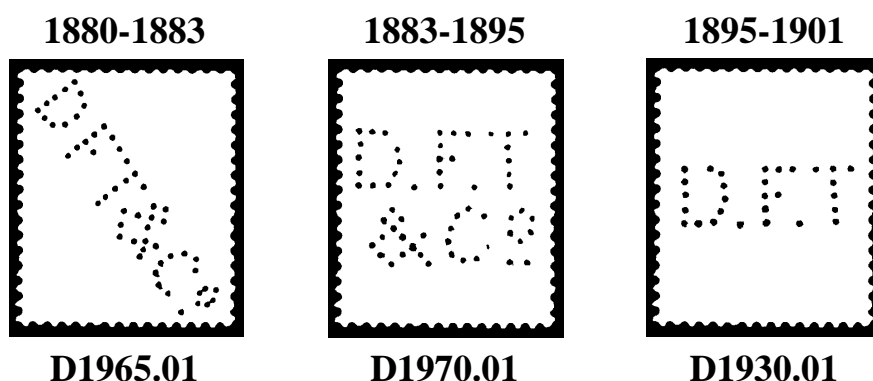
D1955.01

However, the situation has now been resolved! **Jeff Turnbull** has recently reported the same ‘unusual’ pattern on an *identified cover* used by ‘D F Tayler & Co Ltd’, wire & pin manufacturers and makers of small metal goods, New Hall Works, Birmingham 3. From this it would appear that the pins were deliberately removed, all of which allows me to allocate it the catalogue number D1955.01.

**D. F. TAYLER & Co.
LIMITED,
NEW HALL WORKS,
BIRMINGHAM, 3.**

The spelling of the surname on the cover (Tayler with an ‘e’) suggests that the various entries in Tomkins and Section ‘D’ of the New Illustrated Catalogue are all in error. This was subsequently confirmed

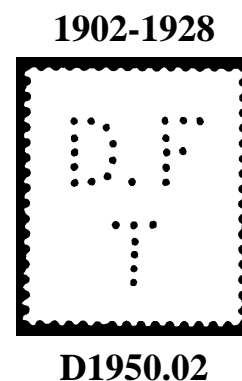
by a quick trawl of the Internet, resulting in the following ‘potted’ history of the company, and their use of *eight* different perfin dies. Graces guide gives a date of 1787 for the establishment of the company, but it is as late as 1833 before the first reference is made to ***Daniel Foot Tayler*** of Lightpill, Near Stroud, Gloucestershire. It was he who first ran under license, then later purchased the patent, for automatic machines that made solid headed pins. The company was not a success, and was purchased by John Williams. In 1840 he removed the machinery to the ***New Hall Works***, Birmingham, and continued trading as ‘D. F. Tayler & Co’. By 1880 the automatic pin making machines could produce 200,000 pins per day.



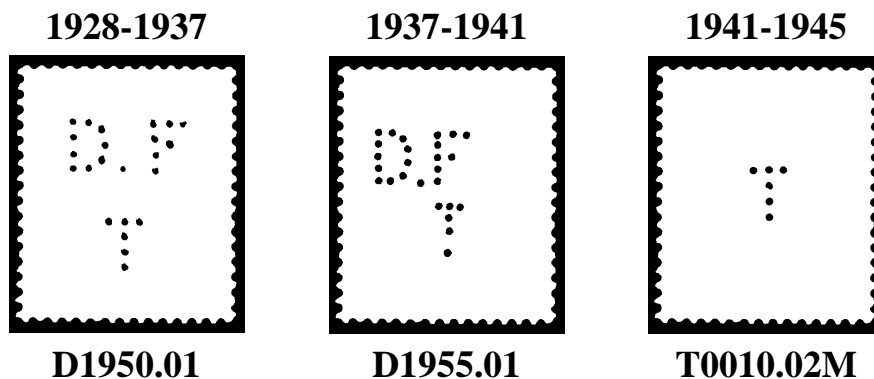
The earliest of the eight Perfin dies known is the diagonal “DFT&C^o.”, (D1965.01) *suspected* of having been used by ‘D F Tayler & Co’ from 1880 to 1883. Following hard on its heels is “D.F.T/&C^o.” (D1970.01), again only a *suspected* identity, in use 1883-1895.

During this period the company was registered (23rd March 1886) to take over the business of pin and hair-pin manufacturers, metal rollers, wire drawers, and printers, of the firms of ‘D. F. Tayler & Co.’ and ‘Edelsten & Williams’, and traded under the name of ‘***D. F. Tayler & Co Ltd***’ from the New Hall Works, Birmingham.

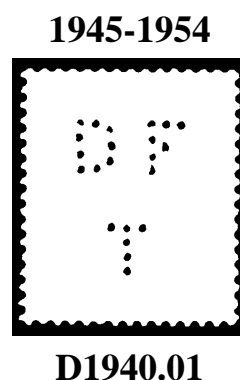
The previous die (D1970.01) was modified c1895 by the complete removal of the “&C^o.” portion (D1930.01). The positive identification of this latter die with ‘D. F. Tayler & Co. Ltd.’ allows the suspected identity for D1970.01. The modified die continued in use until 1901, when it was replaced by “D.F/T” (D1950.02).



By the time of the Great War in 1914, the company employed 500 people and was described as pin, metal & wire manufacturers, and printers; specialising in pins, hair pins, safety pins, hooks and eyes, fasteners and pin novelties of all kinds (i.e. small metal goods).



The Perfin record continues with a replacement “D.F/T” die (D1950.01) which is probably the single-headed die listed in the Sloper m/s ledger. It was originally thought that this die was destroyed in 1941 in the Blitz on Sloper’s premises, but Jeff’s cover (postmarked Birmingham, 24th January, 1938) suggests some sort of an ‘Emergency’ pattern well before the ‘Blitz’. In any event, the single letter “T” (T0010.02M) is known to have been used by ‘D. F. Tayler & Co. Ltd.’ for a short time after the ‘Blitz’, but with so many different users (15 at the last count), a Birmingham postmark on a loose stamp would be the only way of distinguishing them from the others.



Sloper’s produced a replacement for the single letter “T”, again it was a single headed die but with the letters “DF/T” (D1940.01), for which the earliest dated example so far is 30th August 1948. The die continued in use into the QEII Wilding ‘Tudor Crown’ watermark era, say c1954.

If anyone can add any postmark dates to further refine the ‘die in use’ date ranges quoted, I would be pleased to hear from you.